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#### THE PARK AND PLAYGROUND.

The proposition to transform the "Elevator" lot into a city park and playground pending its removal from the litigation in which it has been involved "since the memory of the man runneth not to the contrary," commends itself to all thoughtful persons. The city is entirely lacking in parks, the Casino being used by permission of the Old Dominion Land Company and is subject to commercial uses as soon as the necessity arises.

The Merchant's Association is to be congratulated upon the patriotic impulse which lies back of the movement, and all citizens of the city should heartily co-operate with the organization in the development of its plan to remove the unsightly billboards which deface the main streets of the municipality, and to replace them with a breathing place in the center of the business section; a place which will be a "thing of beauty and a joy" as long as its use is permitted, instead of the eyesore it now is.

Whether or not the right of eminent domain should be called in and condemnation proceedings begun with a view to making the park permanent, may be settled at another time, when the finances of the city are in better shape. Now it is sufficient to know that green grass, shade trees, walkways and an attractive running place will be found where wild animals, chorus girls and advertising signs now disport themselves in unbridled abandon. For that let us be thankful and let the praise be bestowed where it belongs—upon those gentlemen of the Merchant's Association who conceived the idea and who have taken the time and trouble to push it to a successful conclusion.

#### THE ITALIAN RAILROADS.

In Italy the railroads are owned by the government, though they have been leased out to private companies for the last ten years, the notion being to get rid of the burdens incident to government control. This has not worked well and the government is now resuming the management of them. They will be under the immediate direction of a railway committee so organized and authorized as not to bother the government much; operatives will have their own committees likewise, so that it is hoped strikes may be in a great measure prevented. Better management all around is promised, faster trains and more of them, but no reduction in fares or freights. Government ownership of the roads there has not done all that was expected of it by its advocates nor made the flat failure predicted by its adversaries. Which indicates that when it comes to considering great economic questions the extremists are not safe guides to follow. Experience has shown that government ownership does not necessarily mean that a country will go to the demerit how-rows; nor has it been indicated that such conditions bring about the perfection outlined by the idealists, who believe that in paternalism the highest standard of universal perfection will be found. In fact, the indications are that the transportation facilities of the country, if properly controlled by the government, had much better be left out of the realms of party politics.

#### AS TO RHINE WINE.

Some interesting details concerning the manufacture of Rhine wine were brought to light in court proceedings a short time ago. According to the testimony of the employees of one Dr. Schlamp, the proprietor of extensive vineyards in Nierstein, the very home

of the highest brands, throws an interesting light on the subject. He used to turn 500 gallons of fair, ordinary Rhine wine into 1,000 gallons of high class Nierstein in this way: First he added 500 gallons of Rhine water to the wine; then he mixed in scientifically ammonia, lactic acid, isinglass, prunes, raisins, oil of vitriol, gelatines and various drugs, after which he added something out of a phial which he always carried in his pocket, the composition of which he carefully kept a secret. The doctor did not deny the testimony of his employees, but said that all producers of high class Rhine wine pursued similar methods, and he made an appeal to the German public prosecutor to drop the case, on the ground that pursuing it and giving it publicity would tend to the injury of the business.

#### HOW DIAMOND PRICES ARE MAINTAINED.

Estimates of the diamonds in the Premier mines, near Pretoria, in which the 3,032 carat stone was recently found, are that the total production may be worth \$600,000,000. Last year the mining company which owns the property earned over 800 per cent. dividend, and its stock is now selling at 144 times par. It is outside the De Beers diamond trust and is selling its product with no syndicate restrictions, at the high prices which the trust makes and holds the market to.

The trust's policy has been to restrict output and keep prices pegged up artificially a hard thing to do with a new and independent company of immense productive capacity in the field. Probably we shall learn that it has been absorbed into the trust one of these days, and a disturbing element in the diamond trade thus neutralized till another big deposit is discovered.

If the trust should at any time attempt to put its rivals out of business by cuttings prices, those persons who have purchased the precious stones at arbitrarily fixed prices, may live to see the value of their gems as unstable as the value of many other kinds of property.

According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Daddy" Blyer, of Iowa, aged 82, has been cutting and piling 62 curds of wood while Dr. Osier has been talking. The doctor is getting entirely too many strenuous old gentlemen on his hands for effective use as exceptions which go to prove the rule.

While the remarks attributed to Emperor William ament his criticism of the Russian showing at Mukden are undoubtedly undiplomatic, the fact that they are apparently true is the principal reason why Russia will feel cut up over the incident.

There are 10 bankers in the Ohio penitentiary now, and there were 18 Ohio bankers under indictment at the beginning of the year. The Buckeye State pay-riots do not seem content with simply occupying a fine position at the federal pig counter.

According to the treasury department classification rabbit is "venison." This is a clear scoop on the restaurants which have been serving it as chicken.

Perhaps those Omaha reporters needed the money worse than the public authorities needed Pat Crowe.

#### STRANGE ANIMAL.

Has an Almost Human Face and a Red Mustache.

A strange animal roaming the hills in the vicinity of Wildhorse, a station on the Colorado Midland Railway, two miles west of this city, has been seen a number of times by various people and has been described differently by each one.

The most startling of all, however, was the experience of a prominent ranchwoman last evening. She was driving slowly along the road across the Arkansas river, from where the animal has its lair, when her horse suddenly shied, almost throwing her from the rig. She was horrified to see, a few feet ahead of her and in the middle of the road, the monstrosity.

It was about the size and build of a full-grown greyhound and of a drab color, its glistening sides being covered with black spots as large as silver dollars. It had a long, smooth tail and the lady declares it had an almost human face and was evidently of a male gender, as a bristling red mustache ornamented the proper place upon its physiognomy. The eyes were close together and deep set and its ears stood erect and were very pointed. After a moment it uttered a piteous cry and slunk away through the brush, turning at the top of the hill for a last look. It stood erect on its hind feet, punctured the rarefied atmosphere with sounds that reverberated among the crags and compelled a pace on the part of the usually staid horse that was a revelation to the driver. A number of hunting parties have tried in vain to kill this animal and efforts are now being made to capture it alive.—Buena Vista (Colo.) Cor. Denver Times.

Lots of married men are club members because they dislike the idea of spending their evenings at home alone.

#### RIGHT HANDED FOLKS

WHY ARE THEY SO VERY LARGELY IN THE MAJORITY?

There Are Two Factors In the Problem, an Inherited Tendency and Constant Practice—The Origin of the Innate Proclivity.

That the great majority of persons use the right hand with greater skill than the left is doubtless due to two influences—an innate proclivity and constant practice. The preference shown by most infants at the age of one year for the use of the right hand proves that there is an inherited tendency. Further evidence of it is found in the greater ease with which any entirely new act is performed by the right than by the left hand. Training, however, is an important factor. A mature person, having lost the right hand by accident, can achieve wonders with the other if he only exercises patience, perseverance and a strong will.

The more mysterious of the two factors in this problem is the inborn tendency. How did it arise? There are exceptions to the rule. Perhaps two out of every hundred babies are left handed. But when you stop to think of it the natural inclination of the other ninety-eight is remarkable. A great many physiologists have speculated in regard to its cause without reaching any conclusion upon which all could agree.

Dr. George M. Gould says in the Popular Science Monthly that right handedness is so thoroughly ingrained in human nature that it must have been partially developed in the savage ancestors of the race. Primitive man, in his opinion, must have felt a definite need for the exercise of his right hand in preference to his left, and that necessity must have been recognized and obeyed for a long period continuously. The impulse could not well have dictated his habits in eating, for knives and forks are of recent origin, the modern gun had not been invented, and writing was practically unknown. Moreover, in such operations as chipping arrowheads, weaving baskets and welding clubs, bows and arrows it could not have mattered much which hand was employed.

When warfare had been carried to such a stage of advancement as to involve the use of a shield, however, that object was probably held on the left side in order to protect the heart. Then as a matter of convenience the right arm was left free for the more active function of fighting with spear and sword, and with habitual exercise came special skill. An attendant phenomenon was a finer organization of that particular center in the brain which controlled these movements and which was situated in the left half of the organ. The brain is the real seat of all dexterity, and something takes place there in correspondence with external efficiency. With an increased use of the right hand, Dr. Gould thinks, there must have been greater demands upon the right eye, because vision must precede the order to strike or to give peaceful signals. In this way there may have been developed a keener power of vision in the right eye than in the left. Dr. Gould assumes that there was and declares that "right handed people are right eyed" and that in their brains the center of vision is on the left side, in close proximity to that governing the right arm.

While civilization was yet at a low level communication was carried on, especially with strangers, largely in the sign language. Barter laid the foundations of arithmetic and called in to play the digits. The preference already given to the right hand in battle may have guided men in the choice for this service and also in official and social ceremonies. Computation, Dr. Gould points out, was an intellectual process which was conducted in the speech center of the brain. Nature was compelled to take sides in locating the latter, and she placed it to the left of the middle. Dr. Gould thinks that the choice was governed by the employment of the right hand for giving signals. So intimately related are the functions of speech and vision and the control of the muscular efforts with the right arm that action would be quicker if the cerebral centers controlling them were closely associated.

Before discussing the cause of left handedness Dr. Gould calls attention to the fact that with right handed people the left hand is occasionally called upon to perform a task of greater importance than its mate. In eating the fork is used more than the knife. In playing a violin or violoncello the fingering is done with the left hand and the bowing with the right. It is suggested that some of these operations may result from the superiority of the right eye. Perhaps the latter can watch and guide them better when they are performed with the left than with the right hand.

Left handedness is considered by Dr. Gould an inheritance from ancestors, savage or civilized, who were obliged by some misfortune to abandon the use of the right hand. An even more influential injury, he thinks, would have been as to the right eye. With the cultivation of skill with the left hand, he believes, there followed a change in the organization of the brain. Owing to disuse the center, which had formerly controlled action, lost its vigor and that on the opposite side acquired increased power. Dr. Gould says that the speech center was also transferred from the left side to the right of the brain in consequence. In the transmission of the cerebral peculiarity to offspring he finds the key to the manifestation of left handedness at a tender age.—New York Tribune.

Experience is a jewel, and it need be so, for it is often purchased at an infinite rate.—Shakespeare.

#### MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

Of Aeronaut Who Fell Twenty Feet Below the Earth's Surface.

The festivities at the annual meeting of the W. L. A. Society of Le Sueur county, held on the farm of Bertam Ludwig, last week, were sadly marred by a distressing accident at the balloon ascension late in the afternoon, which was one of the crowning features of the occasion.

Through one delay or another, the balloon was not ready to go up till very dark, but the aeronaut was paid for the job and his compensation was contingent on his going up, so up he went, quite a while after sunset.

There was a little wind, and the ascent was nearly perpendicular, but, when the huge, hot-air cylinder was high in the atmosphere, a slight breeze started it off to the southwest and, at the same time, a spark that had been smoldering in the frayed canvas near the lower ring, broke into a slight flame, and a cry of horror went up from all beholders. The aeronaut saw the flame also, and was seen to be frantically shaking at the rope that should have loosened the parachute, but the rope was fouled and the parachute remained fast. Instantly the aeronaut went up, hand over hand, on the ropes and canvass of the parachute to the lower part of the balloon in an attempt to reach and extinguish the fire, but, even as he climbed, the flames gathered greater volume, and, just as he reached the bottom of the balloon, the portion sustaining the parachute burned away and he fell, tangled in the parachute and followed by a trail of fire, like an inverted sky rocket, through the darkening evening air, the great balloon falling slowly after him as the mounting flames consumed it.

Hundreds of men and boys ran to the place where the aeronaut appeared to fall, some quarter of a mile away, but no trace of the unfortunate man could be found, and it was not till nearly midnight, that a lone and persistent searcher heard him scratching and swearing as he climbed slowly out of a 20-foot dry and deserted well on the Bidley place into which he had fallen with perfect accuracy, not even grazing the sides and buoyed up with the softness of a good air cushion as the tangled bundle of his parachute plugged the small straight shaft of the well and let him down slowly to the bottom as his weight pushed the canvass cork gradually down. The W. L. A. Lodge took up a generous subscription and paid him for the burned balloon.—Le Sueur (Minn.) Cor. St. Paul Dispatch.

#### Tiger and Dog Chums.

There is no use waiting for the millennium. It is here. The Bengal tiger, six months old, and the mongrel pup, eight months old, have lain down and got up together in one cage in perfect brotherly love since the birth of the tiger in Cincinnati.

The cub and the pup are now housed in a narrow packing case in Hexamer's livery stable, Hoboken, ready for shipment to Hagenbeck's show in Europe. The Hippodrome people heard of the pair and are negotiating with Howard Fielding, Hagenbeck's agent, for their purchase.

"Usually," said Frank Krissel, Mr. Fielding's representative, "when experiments like that are made the tiger cats up the dog as soon as the tiger's teeth are good enough. But in this case they seemed to take to each other from the first, and now nothing can sever them. If you touch the dog the tiger will make a slap at you. But if you touch the tiger the dog thinks it's a good joke."

"If the tiger gets obstreperous the pup sits down on the tiger's head. Then the tiger shuts up at once. The only time the dog ever respects his friend is when the tiger is eating his portion of raw meat. Then the dog keeps out of the way."—New York Sun.

#### Canal Difficulties in Panama.

The canal operations at Panama are attracting an undesirable element to the isthmus. At Colon, according to reports received from the authorities, a great amount of thieving has been going on. It has been found necessary to establish stricter supervision over the movements of certain people and to increase the guards of public property. The latest loss is that of \$4,000 from the government depository of public funds, the thieves gaining entrance to the room where the money was kept by cutting a hole through the roof.

The canal commissioners have discovered that the government has been paying too much for so-called mosquito oil, which was of no value as a means of protection against the attack of those pestiferous insects. The purchasing officers of the canal project have been buying a refined oil, and it now appears that this process deprives the article of the qualities which would discourage the mosquito. It has been found that crude petroleum answers the purpose much better, and it is now planned to buy 23,000 gallons of the crude oil, which will cost about one-sixth of the price paid for the useless refined oil.—New York Tribune.

Linevitch Deserves a Medal. "General Linevitch walked down the line saluting each soldier with a kiss."—News Item. There is a pleasure that only can be compared to the delight a small boy experiences in walking barefooted over a newly mown wheat field where the stubble is about four inches high.—New York Commercial.

Aman does some things well because he likes to do them, and a woman likes to do some things because she does them well.

#### FISH

Are delivered daily in all parts of the City by the Oyston Fishery wagons. Trout, Butterfish, Croakers, Bluefish and Flounders are now in the season.

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What's the difference whether they are blue or grey or brown or black—so long as they are fashionably designed, correctly cut, well-tailored, of high quality fabrics and perfect in fit.

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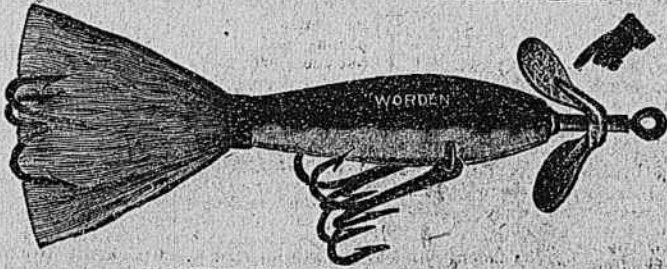
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